

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 AGRE-00 COME-00 /061 W
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O R 041716Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6590
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USNATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BEL
COMUSFORAZ

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 5815

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT PO
SUBJECT: GOVERNMENTAL CRISIS: EANES RECEIVES PSD AND
CDS DELEGATIONS

REF: LISBON 5777 (DTG 031714Z AUG 78)

BEGIN SUMMARY: PRESIDENT EANES AUGUST 3 RECEIVED PSD AND CDS
DELEGATIONS AT THEIR REQUEST AND WILL MEET PCP AND UDP
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DELEGATIONS AUGUST 4. MEANWHILE, MOST OTHER POLITICAL
ACTORS REACTED TO THE PRESIDENT'S AUGUST 1 SPEECH ALONG
GENERALLY PREDICTABLE LINES. END SUMMARY.

1. EANES WITH THE CDS AND PSD: PRESIDENT EANES ON AUGUST
3 MET WITH DELEGATIONS FROM THE CDS HEADED BY PRESIDENT
FREITAS DO AMARAL AND THE PSD LED BY PRESIDENT SA CARNEIRO.

BOTH SESSIONS WERE AT THE PARTIES' REQUESTS. FOLLOWING THE MEETING FREITAS DO AMARAL AND SA CARNEIRO SPOKE TO THE PRESS:

-- AMARAL: AMARAL CALLED THE PS COMMUNIQUE (REFTEL) "UN-FORTUNATE AND UNHELPFUL" AND REJECTED THE IMPLICATIONS THAT THE CDS WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CRISIS. HE ADDED "THE CDS HAS RESTRAINED ITSELF IN PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS OF THE CRISIS, BUT THE PS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CURRENT CRISIS BECAUSE IT COMMITTED VARIOUS VIOLATIONS OF THE ACCORD AND IN NO WAY MANAGED TO REMEDY THEM." HE STATED THAT "IF THERE IS NO AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PS AND CDS, THE RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE THAT OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY." AMARAL ALSO REITERATED THAT THE CDS, ALTHOUGH PREFERRING THE PRESIDENT'S FIRST OPTION OF A GOVERNMENT FORMED BY THE PARTIES, WOULD ALSO SUPPORT A GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE AS LONG AS IT WOULD "GIVE FORMAL GUARANTEES THAT IT WOULD NOT BE USED TO FAVOR ANY PARTY IN ELECTIONS."

-- SA CARNEIRO: PSD PRESIDENT SA CARNEIRO EMPHASIZED THE PARTY'S OBJECTIONS TO AN INTER-PARTY GOVERNMENT, AND DEFENDED THE FORMATION OF A GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE. HE ADDED THAT THE PSD WOULD NOT OBJECT TO A MILITARY MAN AS PRIME MINISTER.

2. PSD AND CDS COMMUNIQUE: AFTER MEETING WITH EANES, BOTH PARTIES ISSUED COMMUNIQUE:

-- PSD: THE PARTY REJECTED THE PRESIDENT'S FIRST ALTERNATIVE OF A GOVERNMENT BASED ON AN INTER-PARTY AGREEMENT, AND DEFENDED UNCLASSIFIED

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THE POSSIBILITY OF A GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE. NEW ELECTIONS WITHOUT A NEW ELECTION LAW WOULD BE "ABSOLUTELY UNACCEPTABLE" AND THE ASSEMBLY MUST BE CONVENED IMMEDIATELY TO APPROVE THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION. THE PSD WOULD PARTICIPATE IN A GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

- (A) THE PSD WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE AS A PARTY;
- (B) PARTICIPATION BY PSD MEMBERS DEPENDS ON SUCH A GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM. THE PRIME MINISTER MUST BE AN INDEPENDENT AND COMMUNISTS MUST BE EXCLUDED FROM THE CABINET;
- (C) MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT MUST ENJOY THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PRESIDENT AND;
- (D) THE GOVERNMENT MUST BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE ASSEMBLY.

-- CDS: THE CDS COMMUNIQUE CALLED THE PS COMMUNIQUE (REFTEL) "EMOTIONAL" AND SAID THAT THE SOCIALISTS HAD IGNORED CDS EFFORTS TO AVOID THE CRISIS. THE PARTY DEFENDED THE PRESIDENT'S ACTION IN THE CRISIS AND SAID EANES HAD GIVEN THE PARTIES SUFFICIENT TIME TO REACH AN AGREEMENT. THE CDS WOULD PARTICIPATE IN A GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE "IF IT HAD A MAJORITY, STABLE, AND COHERENT PARLIAMENTARY BASE." EARLY ELECTIONS ARE UNDESIRABLE FOR THE VERY REASONS CITED BY THE PRESIDENT.

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3. SOARES ON TV: IN AN AUGUST 3 TV INTERVIEW, MARIO SOARES
SAID THE RESIGNATION OF THE THREE CDS MINISTERS "HAD COME AS
A COMPLETE SURPRISE." SOARES DEFENDED THE PS-CDS GOVERNMENT'S
RECORD ON LAND REFORM, DENIED ANY SECRET AGREEMENT WITH THE
PCP, AND CRITICIZED RECENT STATEMENTS BY THE CHURCH-OWNED RADIO.
SOARES SAID THAT DEEP-DOWN CDS LEADERS KNOW THAT BREAKING THE AGREE-
MENT WITH THE SOCIALISTS WAS A SERIOUS MISTAKE. HE CLAIMED HIS RE-
LATIONS WITH PRESIDENT EANES "WERE, ARE AND WILL BE EXCELLENT," BUT
THAT A GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE WOULD PUT TOO MUCH
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POWER IN THE HANDS OF ONE MAN, WOULD BE TECHNICALLY UNCONSTITUTIONAL, AND WOULD BE DANGEROUS FOR DEMOCRACY.

4. OTHER REACTIONS TO THE EANES SPEECH:

--CIP, CAP, AND CCP: THE PORTUGUESE INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION (CIP), AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION (CAP, AND COMMERCIAL ASSOCIATION (CCP) ISSUED A JOINT COMMUNIQUE CITING THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION AND URGING THE PARTIES TO SUPPORT A GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE TO GOVERN UNTIL 1980...

--VITOR HUGO (CARTA ALBERTA): THE SPEECH IS POSITIVE AS FAR AS THE AFFIRMATION THAT ANY SOLUTION MUST BE CONSTITUTIONAL. AN INTER-PARTY AGREEMENT APPEARS MORE ACCEPTABLE. THE PRESIDENT WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE GUARANTOR OF DEMOCRACY AND SHOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO ATTACKS FROM THOSE WHO LONG FOR THE PAST.

--ANTONIO BARRETO (PS): THE SPEECH WAS AN IMPORTANT AND USEFUL CONTRIBUTION TO THE RESOLUTION OF OUR POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS.

--SA BORGES (SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT--MSD): THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS IS A POLITICAL ACT OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE AT THE CURRENT MOMENT...THE SOLUTIONS WHICH HE OUTLINED ARE THE ONES I SEE AS POSSIBLE.

--CARLOS MACEDO (PSD): I THINK IT WAS A SPEECH IN THE STYLE OF A DIRECTOR-GENERAL. IT WAS NOT IN FACT THE SPEECH OF A PRESIDENT OF A COUNTRY IN A CRISIS AS DEEP AS OURS. NOT FORGETTING THAT WE ARE IN PORTUGAL, THE ONLY SPEECH I WANTED TO HEAR WAS ONE LIKE DE GAULLE'S SPEECH OF 1958.

--SOUSA FRANCO (PSD): THE SPEECH WAS IMPORTANT BECAUSE THE PRESIDENT EXPLAINED THE CAUSES AND CONTEXTS OF THE CRISIS, WHICH THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE DO NOT UNDERSTAND. A VIABLE INTER-PARTY AGREEMENT DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE WHICH HAD EXISTED IS UNLIKELY. EARLY ELECTIONS WOULD INVOLVE ALL OF THE PROBLEMS POINTED OUT BY THE PRESIDENT AND LAUNCH THE COUNTRY INTO A

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CONTINUOUS PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY. A GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE IS THE ONLY REMAINING ALTERNATIVE.F

--PINHEIRO DE AZEVEDO (PDC): THE COUNTRY IS SICK, AND THE MACHINATIONS OF THE PARTIES HAVE BECOME IRRELEVANT. TO GIVE THEM MORE TIME NOW IS TO LOSE EVEN MORE TIME FOR THE NATION.

--KAULZA DE ARRIAGA (MIRN): THE PRESIDENT LOST HIS FREEDOM OF ACTION AND DEFENDED SOCIALISM WHICH WE KNOW TO BE UTOPIAN. THE COUNTRY IS WRESTLING WITH AN IMPOSSIBLE CONSTITUTION, DEMOCRACY IS THE PRINCIPAL VICTIM, AND THE POLITICAL PARTIES ARE A PROVEN DISASTER.

--LOPES CARDOSO (UEDS): THE PRESIDENT REVEALED THAT HE WOULD NOT SEEK A SOLUTION OUTSIDE OF THE CONSTITUTION. A POSITIVE SIGN.

--RIBEIRO TELLES (PPM): A MAJORITY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES, EVEN BETWEEN THE PS AND CDS IS IMPOSSIBLE.

A GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE IS THE LIKELY
OUTCOME.

--FAR LEFT: THE SOCIALIST LEFT MOVEMENT (MES), THE UNITARY
WORKERS' ORGANIZATION (OUT), THE PCP (M-1), AND THE POPULAR
SOCIALIST FRONT (FSP) ALL ISSUED SEPARATE COMMUNIQUE
CALLING FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL SOLUTION--PREFERABLY A
GOVERNMENT BASED ON AN INTER-PARTY AGREEMENT (EANES'S FIRST
ALTERNATIVE)--AND REJECTED A GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL
INITIATIVE. OUT CALLED THE LATTER "A GRAVE DANGER FOR
WORKERS."

--MANUEL MARIA MURIAS (EDITOR, FAR RIGHT A RUA): GENERAL
EANES HAS CONFUSED PORTUGAL AND THE CONSTITUTION. TO DEFEND
THE LATTER, HE SACRIFICES THE FORMER. IF ANOTHER PS-CDS
GOVERNMENT IS THE MOST VIABLE SOLUTION, WHY WAS DR. SOARES
DISMISSED? WE ARE STILL A BACKWARD COUNTRY.
BLOOMFIELD

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